

The Alabamian

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# 59 dead, over 500 injured in Las Vegas shooting

By GEORDIE KENNEDY



Stephen Paddock was proven to have shot the volley from the Mandalay Bay Hotel (pictured)

Courtesy of SuperCarWaar (wikicommons)

The Las Vegas Strip was in chaos on Sunday night after a lone gunman opened fire on a nearby crowd of concert goers. The shots were reportedly fired from the thirty-second floor of the Mandalay Bay hotel by 64-year-old Stephen Paddock, a resident of Mesquite, Nevada.

59 attendees of the Route 91 Harvest Festival have been reported dead, with over 500 injured. The attack was estimated to have lasted between 10 and 15 minutes, aimed widely across the crowd of nearly 22,000 people. The first reports of the shooting came in around 10:08 p.m. local time. The crowd had gathered for the

aforementioned outdoor country music festival which was taking place on the Vegas Strip, northeast of the Mandalay Bay hotel. The attack occurred during a performance by famed country star, Jason Aldean. A majority of the recorded evidence of the attack itself has come from concert goers' cell phone video taken during the performance.

It is currently believed that Paddock acted alone, having been in residence at the hotel since Sept. 28 with no reported accomplices. Paddock was a retired accountant with no known history of violent behavior or connection to violent groups. His motives are

as of yet unknown.

Paddock was found dead after police breached his hotel room of a gunshot wound, suspectedly self inflicted. The hotel room also contained at least 17 firearms, leading to the theory that multiple weapons had been used during the massacre. Some of the firearms had reportedly been modified in order to allow automatic fire. A search revealed that Paddock's home contained around 18 firearms, ammunition and explosives. Some explosive materials were also found in the shooter's car.

With a death toll of 59, this attack has been confirmed as the worst shooting in recent American

history. The previous highest death toll was seen at the 2016 Pulse Nightclub shooting which was measured at 49 with 58 wounded.

The shooting has left the Las Vegas area, as well as the country at large, shaken. Condolences have dominated many social media platforms, and the White House has responded with words of solace and condemnation toward the violence committed.

Alongside the outpouring of support on social media, there has been controversy surrounding United States gun control law, a well-known debate in these times of tragedy.

## NEWS in BRIEF

By SINJUN SINCLAIR and VANDY MYERS

According to Associated Press, the death toll from the Mexico City earthquake has risen significantly. On Sept. 29 at 11 a.m., the death toll rose to 355. The original death toll on the day of the quake, Sept. 19, was merely 10. Most of the rubble from 38 different sites has been removed and most bodies have been found, however, there is still more work to be done.

Volcanoes all around the Pacific Ring of Fire are erupting. According to VICE News, many people have been evacuated from dangerous areas in Indonesia. On Thursday, Sept. 21, at least 122,500 people were evacuated because Bali's Mount Agung has been on high alert since the Friday before. On Wednesday, Sept. 20, Mount Sinabung on Sumatra sent a 1.5-mile column of ash into the air, and in Vantau nearly 11,000 people have fled from the Manaro Voui volcano.

A man in West Virginia has been monitoring coal slurry lakes using a drone. Junior Walk, 27, is an environmentalist based out of Eunice, a community in the Coal River Valley. According to VICE News, he flies a drone over mines, looking for violations. Walk then submits evidence of violations anonymously to West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection, hoping that companies will be forced to pay fines or slow down their work. However, Walk is also worried about the Brushy Fork impoundment. The impoundment is a manmade "lake" filled with 8 billion gallons of coal slurry.

In 1875 a badly damaged fossil was discovered in England's Oxford Clay Formation. Until recently, scientists had been unable to determine what species the preserved bones belonged to, but on October 2 a research team led by Davide Foffa published an analysis of the fossil's skull, lower jaw and teeth. According to the team's article summarizing the discovery, the predator would have lived in the Middle Jurassic era 163 million years ago. The fossil was key in helping Foffa and his team understand how the creature became the apex predator of its ecosystem.

# Montevallo inclusivity forum prompts community discussion

By JAMIE HAAS and GEORDIE KENNEDY

On Thursday, Sept. 28, U MOM was host to a night of open community discussion. Students, UM faculty and Montevallo locals alike attended the Montevallo Community Inclusivity Forum to discuss the possibility of the city enacting a Non-Discrimination Ordinance.

The Non-Discrimination Ordinance had previously been brought before the City Council. However, concerns raised by Montevallo citizens over wording and specificity resulted in the motion being reworked. The ordinance would amend chapter 16 of the Montevallo Municipal Code, barring the act of discrimination toward the LGBTQ community from occurring with no legal recourse.

The forum sought to discuss how the city should move forward

in addressing the issue of gender and sexual orientation-based discrimination. Three specific options were presented: establish laws that ensure justice and fairness, focus on citizen relationships, or organizing and educating the community.

Turnout to the event was higher than anticipated with over 100 individuals in attendance. One such individual, Frank Barrientes, attended the meeting was unsure of where he stood.

"I have to say I was leaning against it," said Barrientes. "But I think with maybe another couple of meetings and some more understanding I could see exactly what's trying to be accomplished." Other attendees echoed Barrientes' sentiment, stating there is still much work to be done in the community before a consensus

can be reached.

"I expected to have a lot of people be really divided. It went about as I expected, and that's disappointing," said community member Lea Ann Webb. "I hope that we will continue to move forward having conversations, not debates."

A variety of concerns were raised throughout the forum's discussions. One such concern belonging to local business owners was the possibility of unjustified lawsuits from LGBTQ employees. Other members of the community had questions regarding the specific wording of the amendment. Even more attendees considered the matter a conflict of religious ideologies.

"I'm disappointed that so much about Christianity being against the LGBTQ community

was stressed. My support of the LGBTQ community is informed by my faith," said Webb. Although the forum saw its fair share of disagreements and emotional response, the meeting's very occurrence exemplifies the city's commitment to providing venues for open dialogue among citizens.

"I feel very affirmed," said Dr. Holly Cost, Mayor of Montevallo. "We have a community that wants to be heard and feels safe enough to express their feelings."

Moving forward, the city of Montevallo will work with comments and questionnaires from the forum in order to draft a new version of the ordinance. The potential for additional meetings and forums related to the ordinance has been discussed, but no word on such happenings has been officially released.



## Freshman perspective: side mixer

By CALEB JONES



Purple and Gold sides put up their signs at the College Night Mixer.

Photo by: Katie Compton

As a freshman, I must say that the College Night mixer was an interesting experience to say the least. Upon coming to The University of Montevallo, I kept hearing about the famous Purple – Gold rivalry and the intensity of each side’s spirit, but I don’t think I truly understood it until I opened the doors of the SAC. I was instantly surrounded; on one side by a throng of people clothed in black and gold, proudly hoisting their thumbs up and displaying their lions; on the other a sea of purple clad people, each boldly throwing up two fingers and flaunting their cows. Everywhere I heard emphatic cries of “GV!” and “PV!”. The whole time I was wondering - what did I just walk into? Confused yet interested, I walked around and started asking some of the older students from each side,

“What does your side stand for?”, and “What does your side mean to you?” A Gold Side member sporting a lion costume gave me his “Three P’s.” positivity, productivity, and passion. He stated that no matter what, they strive to be positive, to get things done, and to always try their hardest. A Purple Side member decked out in cow print and pins told me that to her, one of Purple Side’s best features was their inclusiveness, and how everyone can find a place to fit in and use their talents. Although each side has their differences, after walking around and speaking to people I realized there were some key components each side shared; mainly a strong sense of family, community and love. One person I talked to, a neutral green, gave me a really good idea of just what that means. When

I asked him what college night meant to him, being someone who doesn’t even have a side he responded, “It’s a way for people to come together and uphold a tradition older than we are. We come together and help and support each other”. I thought about that as the night ended, with each side taking turns to circle up and do their respective cheers and songs, and as I looked around that night, I think I finally started to get an idea about what College Night is all about. Yeah, it’s competitive, and takes a lot of time and effort, but from the people I talked to I got the feeling that for both sides, the hard work was not only worth it but it was actually very fulfilling. The two sides come together and compete, Purple and Gold, to uphold the beautiful tradition that is College Night.

## Life Raft Debate panelists revealed

The scene is this: a nuclear war has decimated the Earth, and the survivors must choose who among a handful of academics is worthy of the last seat on the life raft.



**Andrea Eckelman** (panelist, defending champion)  
Assistant professor of Political Science in the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences



**Susan Caplow** (panelist)  
Assistant professor of Environmental Studies in the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences



**Heather Tinsley** (panelist)  
Associate professor of Biology in the Department of Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics



**Brendon Beal** (panelist)  
Assistant professor of Social Work in the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences



**Scott Varagona** (devil’s advocate)  
Assistant professor of Mathematics in the Department of Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics

Photos courtesy of University Relations

## Opinion: campus accessibility in need of improvement

By JAMIE HAAS



As it stands now, multiple levels of Napier Hall are inaccessible to those with mobility limitations.

Photo by: Jamie Haas

During the spring semester of 2016, the SGA Senate voted in favor of a resolution to support implementing a \$50 housing and residence facilities maintenance fee. Once enacted, the money collected from that fee was to be put into a fund designated in its entirety toward building an elevator in Napier Hall. Within the resolution, it was stated that only after the elevator was completed could the collected funds then be put toward other on-campus projects. However, now that approximately \$250,000 has been accrued, its initial purpose of funding a Napier elevator has been called into question. Currently, the SGA Senate and Executive Cabinet are discussing whether or not to uphold the resolution’s original promise and are split about 50/50 on the decision. However, official action to divert the funding elsewhere isn’t likely to be taken if the student body ex-

presses a strong desire to maintain the integrity of the 2016 resolution. That is to say, if we want an elevator built in Napier Hall, then we as students need to speak up in support of using the collected funds for that purpose. Those in opposition to keeping the resolution as is have expressed a number of reasons why they believe utilizing the money elsewhere would be the best decision for UM. I think, though, that not only do the benefits of the elevator outweigh any proposed costs, but also that all of those reasons can be easily countered. The most obvious reasons are the time and cost. The University needs to raise upwards of \$800,000 in order to construct the elevator, a feat that will take several years to achieve. However, it was for that very reason that the 2016 resolution creating the fund was passed in the first place. Additionally, the idea of further push-

ing back the the start-date of this goal because it can’t be achieved in the immediate future is ludicrous. It begs the question, “if not now, then when?” There will never be a convenient time for the University to spend that amount of money on anything, and waiting for the “right time” to act is only putting off the inevitable. Furthermore, funding the elevator is a plan that has already been set into motion. To pull a bait-and-switch at this time, nearly two years after the project’s inception, would only serve in reversing the progress that has already been made. Other concerns pertaining to funding a Napier elevator are that it would only affect the accessibility of a single building, and it’s an issue relevant to just a small portion of the student body. My response to those arguments is this: why is an issue less significant because it affects the minority

within a group of people? Historically, it is the voices and needs of those groups that are often swept aside in favor of what is deemed best for the majority. The University of Montevallo does not have to subscribe to the outdated paradigm that the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few; instead, we can send the message to current and prospective UM students that we are a school that values the needs of all who attend our institution. As things stand now, the University is technically in compliance with legal state code for ADA standards without Napier being accessible to every student. This is due to UM making accommodations for people with limited mobility by putting them in other accessible residence halls at the same price as Napier. However, continuing down that route is following the path of least resistance, and, at least in my experience,

UM rarely opts for doing the bare minimum. The administration has expressed that even if the funds are utilized elsewhere at this time, the Napier elevator will still be on the list of projects requiring completion at UM. I believe, though, that this project is something that should not be put on hold or pushed off until it’s the last possible item on the list needing to be crossed off. Instead, UM should be actively working to ensure all buildings on campus are handicap accessible: a concern that should have been addressed long before now. Putting an elevator in Napier Hall is the first step we can take in tackling that issue head on. If you want to express your opinion on campus accessibility or maintaining the Napier elevator’s current funding, email your concerns to sgapres@montevallo.edu.



# New York comedian visits Montevallo

By MAGGIE SANDERSON and LILY DICKINSON



Before becoming a comedian, Morris pursued a career in journalism. Photo by: Jamie Haas

On the evening of Friday, Sept. 22, comedian Bryan Morris performed a set as a part of SGA's WOW Weekend. As the audience relaxed in Farmer with pizza and mocktails, Bryan regaled them with stories, jokes and anecdotes that really got people laughing. "I thought it was a great show, [the comedian] was actually funny," said Anjelica Braxton, a UM junior. Braxton said she enjoyed the show, with one particular joke standing out as her favorite. "When he was talking about when his ex-girlfriend's mom walked in on him when he was using the bathroom in the sink, that was funny. I laughed so hard." While his routine was well received by most of the crowd, it was his engagement with the audience that really brought the house down. Morris often had a rapport with multiple members of the audience, poking fun both at those not paying attention to the show and those who snapped enthusiastically at his jokes.

Morris has been doing stand-up professionally for approximately seven years. "I used to watch stand-up when I was a kid, and I was just like oh, I love this. And I was always trying to be the funny kid when I was young, so it just seemed like a fun thing to do, although I used to think you can't do that as a career, but then at some point I was like, oh you can!" Morris said, explaining how he got into stand-up comedy. When asked about his influences, Morris cited Louis C.K., Jim Gaffigan and Patton Oswalt. "[They're] people that a lot of people love," Morris said. "A guy named Chad Daniels who is not as well known was one of my idols when I started comedy. Also Amy Poehler. I do a lot of improv and sketch, so I loved her when she was doing the 'Upright Citizens Brigade.'"

# Spoken word artist inspires students

By KAMI GOTHARD



Romero both educates and entertains the crowd with his poetry. Photo by: Katie Compton

"We didn't cross the border, the border crossed us," is the slogan of the immigrant rights movement. David A. Romero, a Hispanic spoken word artist, used this quote during his poetry reading on Sep. 19 in the University of Montevallo's own Farmer Hall to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Romero performed his work ranging from a humorous poem entitled "Cheese Enchiladas" to a political commentary piece entitled "Open Letter to Donald Trump." Throughout the performances, there were fits of laughter as well as an abundance of snaps in agreement. Romero was not only enjoyable to watch, but also educational as he spoke of various times in history and current events from the Spanish conquest to the news of neo-Nazis. When asked his inspiration for his poetry Romero responded, "I'm inspired by people I meet and life experiences as well as family history—I remember growing up my dad would always take us to historical sites and a lot of times

that would be a reflection upon terrible things that had happened in the past so you know what was cheap parenting on my father by not taking us to an amusement park really built this appreciation for history in me." Romero is considered a social justice activist which is evident in his poem "Undocumented Football," a poem that shows the struggles of an undocumented immigrant who is at risk of being deported and always running. He often uses poetry to explain other cultures and ideals in an artistic way. When asked how this strategy is effective for his audiences he responded, "we tell truths, we tell facts and we tell our own personal experiences, but we do it through the use of metaphors. It's art and like all art it's interpreted, so it gives the audience or the reader various entry points to enter in and look at things from a different perspective." Romero used the example of reading a great piece of science fiction that allows people to ponder theological issues in a way that we wouldn't have otherwise.

## The Alabamian

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# Fashion on the Bricks: "Lazy fashion"

By MAGGIE SANDERSON and LILY DICKINSON



Freshman Ashlin Mullinex sport s her "lazy fashion" looks on campus with pride. Photo by: Lily Dickinson

It's that time of year again: the shine is off the new semester and it just isn't worth it to dress up anymore. Since most of us find ourselves rolling out of bed just to go to class, being fashionable isn't our number one priority. However, with this development comes the rise of a new trend in clothing that is less a style and more a lack thereof. This trend has been deemed "lazy fashion" and is comprised mostly of whatever clothes take the least amount of effort to put on. We talked to a few sluggish students for their take on lazy fashion. Benjamin "Banjo" Johns, a freshman, described lazy fashion

as "fashion that you don't have to think about in the morning, just slipping on whatever you have in your dresser." Freshman Ashlin Mullinex agreed, explaining simply that lazy fashion is "not work attire." This particular look requires extremely minimal thought and styling, making it ideal for any slothful college student at Montevallo. Sophomore Mekala Bonner stated that lazy fashion is "pulling clothes out of [her] dirty laundry pile and just putting them back on." Obviously this trend is growing in popularity thanks to the steady increase of stress for

students who don't have time to think about what they are wearing anymore. "It's super comfortable and it's easily accessible for college students so we don't have to worry about dressing up," Mullinex said. Johns concurred, describing the appeal of lazy fashion. "People are lazy is why it's popular, and because I am lazy is why I like it. I didn't have the energy to get dressed today, it being a Friday and everything. I just didn't want to think about clothes." If you too want to think less about what you wear and join the "lazy fashion" trend, consider some of these lazy options that are

favorites among your peers. Johns loves being lethargic in a wide variety of clothes, saying, "[I like my] sweatpants, my chubbies with the elastic band, flip flops, t-shirts are nice." Bonner had similar favorites to laze about in. "My sweatpants or my yoga pants with the mesh in them, I like those a lot and men's t-shirts because the cotton is softer for some reason." Because of the popularity of lazy fashion, next time you don't feel like putting on real pants, just know that you're still in style.



## Students and locals host city cleanup

By SAVANNAH BARTON



Vallocycle and E-Club members pose together after a day of hard work.

Photo by: Savannah Barton

On campus, many people visit University Lake for fishing, kayaking or just taking a moment to breathe while surrounded by nature. Sadly, not everyone has been doing their job of keeping the campus clean and they've been throwing their trash out into natural areas, causing plant life and animal life alike to become sick and unhealthy. Fortunately, there are fellow students who do care about their surroundings enough to do something about this.

Say hello to Vallocycle, an organization that rents bikes to the Montevallo community and helps keep the air clean, and Environmental Science club, or E-club, an organization of environment-loving students who come together to help others and the environment around them, the two organi-

zations who came together to collect the garbage that polluted the area. The volunteers split up into different groups and spread out to cover the area, collecting 10 bags full of garbage and seven tires, at the least. Afterwards, they rode down a bike trail on bikes and had a picnic on Flowerhill.

"Basically, my experience was wonderful!" said Sierra Bobo, a member of E-club. "I got to see a lot of familiar faces and meet new people who had a common deep love for this community's well-being. It was a beautiful day [with] lots of smiles and laughter amongst ourselves. The biking trail was great, the picnic at the end was amazing, too, where we just sat and chitchatted and talked about so much that made me feel really happy and close to the people there."

## Falcons open Gulf South Conference

By ALEX TEJADA



Evelina Teran attacks the ball in a game against Miles

Photo By: Alex Tejada

Montevallo's volleyball season is back on track after two wins over conference opponents this past weekend. The Falcons swept both Christian Brothers and Union to move to 7-6 and 0.500 in the Gulf South. They look to improve their 3-3 conference record on the road this weekend with trips to West Alabama and Mississippi College. Their next home game is Tuesday, Oct. 17 against North Alabama. Freshman hitter Amanda Nugent along with senior Kristy Bohan and junior Brie Blume have over 100 kills on the season. Coach Katie O'Brien's team leads the conference in service aces.

The Montevallo women's soccer team is 5-3 in Robert Lane's third season in charge. The Falcons have knocked off in-conference foes West Georgia, Spring Hill and Alabama-Huntsville to go along with non-conference wins over Albany State and a comeback victory over Faulkner. Freshman forward Allye Darnell leads the team in goals, with four halfway through the season. The backline has stiffened up significantly. Senior Sarah Daniels is joined by Tayler Kukes and freshman Christiane Malone in front of Sydney Young's goal. Last year's assist leader Tylor Ring has continued her good form from last season. Ring has tallied

three goals to go along with a crucial assist in the 4-3 win over Faulkner. The Falcons have three road contests before returning home on Oct. 13. Lane's team faces Shorter at Varsity Field for Senior Night.

Bruce Dietterle's men's soccer team is off to a 4-3-1 start and are 1-1-1 in the Gulf South since resuming life in the conference. New faces have gelled with experience players, and the Falcons have a defense anchored by seniors Austin Petrovich, Niko Klacar and Zach Keller alongside newcomer Gabriel Quartarone. Cesare Marconi has three goals and two assists. The Gulf South Freshman of the Week from last month has made a bright start to life in a Montevallo uniform. Freshman Lukas Hauer's four goals are a team-high and Robert Kuta has the same number of shutouts. The sophomore keeper leads the conference in saves with 51 on the year. After a difficult start to the season, the Falcons won three straight games including wins over Auburn-Montgomery and old Peach Belt rivals North Georgia. The Falcons travel to Tennessee to face Union on Friday before returning home

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

By WAID JONES

Before 1946 the last time the Chicago Cubs had won the World Series was in 1908. But everything changed for the Chicago Cubs in 1946. It had been shaping up to be a good year for them as they were in the fourth game of the World Series with a 2-1 lead in over the Detroit Tigers, only having to win another two games to take home the championship. The fans were ecstatic, well everybody except one.

Billy "The Goat" Sianis was a local bar owner in Chicago, he owned none other than the now world-famous Billy Goat Tavern. He had a mascot that he had saved from certain death in the mid-1930s, a goat named Murphy. Murphy was well liked and went with Sianis everywhere, mainly to promote his bar. That was exactly what Sianis was doing on that fateful October sixth when he went to Wrigley Field with tickets not only for himself but his trusty goat.

This is when historians start to argue about what happened next. Some say that he was stopped at the gate and told by P.K. Wrigley, the owner of the field, that he wasn't allowed into the field with his "smelly" goat. Others say that he made it all the way to his seat before he was told that his goat was "smelly" and asked to leave. Both stories can agree on a single fact however, that once Sianis was removed from Wrigley Stadium he cursed the Chicago Cubs, "You are going to lose the World Series... You are never going to win another game!"

Some historians believe that the curse was fiction considering its existence didn't become widely popular in media coverage of the Cubs until 1969. The cubs started off the season strong and then imploded as they reached September when they played the New York Mets. A black cat crossed in front of their dugout. The team went on to lose the game and miss out on another playoff.

In 1970 Sianis lifted his "Goat Curse" from the Cubs before he died. The lifting of the curse however couldn't even save them as they continued to be the lovable losers of the MLB until finally in 2016 the Cubs won their first World Series in 108 years. The Cubs have put up a good performance this year as well, as they entered the season the favorites to win the World Series again. After a rocky start and some ups and down midway through the season. They're expected to make a strong showing during the postseason and who knows they might even go back to back, winning another World Series.



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